

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11-21 and 25-27 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11-21 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim Amendments

Claim 25 is amended to clarify the invention. No new matter is added. Support for this amendment is on page 5, ll. 7-11 of the application as filed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

All pending claims were rejected on combinations of various references. For some rejections, the Office Action listed Shyu as a reference, gave the patent number of Schemmel, and referenced Shyu in the text. The Applicant assumes that the Examiner is referring to the Shyu reference.

The combination of Iwakiri, Shyu, Akamatsu, Caldwell, and Stubblefield does not suggest determining markings to be defective or unloading product after an OCR technique or unit fails to recognize every read character as used in claims 1, 9, 15, 18 and 25. If anything, the combination suggests that the failure of an ORC technique to recognize all of the characters is not determinative in the decision to discard product or mark it defective.

In Shyu, the only effect of unrecognized characters is to require manual entry of the characters. In the case where all characters are recognized, next step is field editing, then form recognition. A document is rejected after a failure of the form recognition and manual editing of the failed form. In the case where some characters are rejected, the rejected characters are manually entered. If the manually entered form passes an integrity check, it is accepted, otherwise it follows the same path as a document with all recognized characters, starting with field editing process. Any document that gets to the field editing process, regardless of how it got there has all of the characters entered. Either the characters were recognized, or manually entered. Thus, the failure of the OCR to recognize characters has no effect on whether the document is rejected. Hence, Shyu has no suggestion to reject anything based on the failure of an OCR technique to recognize characters. *See Shyu, FIG. 2, and col. 5, ll. 12-40.* None of the other references has a suggestion to reject based on a failure of an OCR technique to recognize all characters.

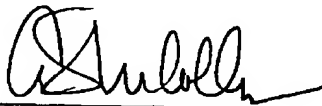
Because the combination of Iwakiri, Shyu, Akamatsu, Caldwell, and Stubblefield does not teach or suggest determining markings to be defective or unloading product after an OCR technique or unit fails to recognize every read character as used in claims 1, 9, 15, 18

and 25. Thus, the combination does not teach each and every limitation of claims 1, 9, 15, 18, 25 or any of the dependent claims. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11-21 and 23-27.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11-21 and 23-27 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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